



The July 2008 Open for Business report highlights projects and related announcements that will assist with the creation of new jobs and the preservation of a significant number of existing jobs.

Toyota invests \$500 million to upgrade Putnam County engine plant

Toyota Manufacturing is investing \$500 million to upgrade the production lines of its engine plant in Buffalo, W.Va. The investment is spread among the four- and six-cylinder lines and the automatic transmission plant. The investment will update the plant technology and stay competitive. Originally Toyota invested \$400 million to build engines in West Virginia. Since then, the plant has expanded five times, representing an investment of more than \$1 billion. The plant employs 1,350 workers.

Toyota's West Virginia plant ranks as top four-cylinder engine plant in North America

The Toyota plant in Buffalo, W.Va., has been rated as the most productive four-cylinder engine plant in North America. The ranking appeared in the annual Harbour Report, a reporting source on automotive manufacturing in North America. Toyota's six-cylinder plant was ranked the fourth most productive in North America.

Sino Swearingen Aircraft acquired by Emirates Investment

Emirates Investment & Development has acquired a controlling interest in aircraft manufacturer Sino Swearingen. The investment firm, known as Emivest, is based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The acquisition will enable Sino Swearingen to begin the full-scale production of its SJ30 light business jet, designed as a high speed, fuel-efficient aircraft with intercontinental range. Sino Swearingen's main manufacturing facility is housed at the John D. Rockefeller IV Technology Center on the Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport - Martinsburg. Employees at the 87,000-square-foot facility make the wing, fuselage, and vertical tail of the SJ30. The company employs nearly 300 in Texas and West Virginia.

British company acquires Fairmont-based ProLogic

Computer networking and software developer ProLogic has been purchased by Ultra Electronics Holdings, a British defense and security company. The deal was officially closed on June 13. The acquisition will enable ProLogic's 300 employees in West Virginia, Virginia and 11 other states to retain their jobs, said Chief Executive Jay Reddy.

WVEDA approves two loans

During its June meeting, the West Virginia Economic Development Authority (WVEDA) gave final approval loans for two companies:

- Total Recycling Solutions LLC, \$675,000 for the acquisition of extrusion lines and other equipment at the facility in Ravenswood, Jackson County. The new company converts plastic scrap to molding-grade plastic compounds. Employment is expected to be 60 jobs after the first year and 185 after three. The facility will be leased from 5S, LLC.
- 5S, LLC, \$1.62 million, to buy a facility situated on 14.5 acres in Ravenswood, Jackson County. 5S will lease the facility to Total Recycling Solutions to recover and use scrap nylon and polypropylene materials.

AT&T invests \$27 million in West Virginia wireless network

AT&T is investing \$27 million to upgrade and expand its wireless network in West Virginia. The company expects to have third-generation technology on its network along Interstate 64 from Charleston to Olive Hill, Ky. Third-generation technology offers advanced features such as simultaneous voice and data. Users with phones equipped with the technology and who subscribe to video share and online service can talk and show videos at the same time, or send and receive text while talking. AT&T has invested \$45 million in West Virginia since 2005. AT&T now offers wireless coverage in 43 of the state's 55 counties.

West Virginia Small Business Division helps 146 clients in May

The West Virginia Small Business Division (WVSBD) provided 436 hours of counseling to 146 clients in May. The division trained 119 people at 16 training events and approved 13 loans totaling more than \$2.1 million dollars. Since the fiscal year began on Oct. 1, 2007, WVSBD has served 835 clients, provided 4,202 hours of counseling and trained 926 participants in 104 training events. So far this fiscal year, the agency provided 57 small business loans totaling nearly \$11 million. A division of the West Virginia Development Office, WVSBD works with colleges, universities and other host institutions to provide business consulting and technical assistance statewide.

West Virginia producers to exhibit at 54th annual Fancy Food Show

West Virginia food producers will exhibit at the International Fancy Food & Confection Shows in New York City June 27 – July 1. As part of a joint marketing effort with the Department of Commerce, the producers will be accompanied by representatives from the West Virginia Department of Agriculture and West Virginia Development Office. Previous Fancy Food Shows have attracted from 19,000 to 24,000 attendees that include bankers and buyers for supermarkets, gift shops, candy stores, mail-order and other related businesses. The West Virginia businesses exhibiting at the show are ThistleDew Farm Inc. Blue Smoke Salsa, DeFluri's Fine Chocolates and Poochee's Choice.

West Virginia groups exhibit in Japan automotive show

The West Virginia Development Office joined with the Putnam County Development Authority and the Huntington Area Development Corporation (HADCO) to exhibit in the 2008 Automotive Parts Product Solution Fair (APPS) June 18-21 in Tokyo. The annual exposition draws more than 25,000 visitors representing automotive parts manufacturers and related companies. The West Virginia representatives met with companies that have invested in West Virginia and additional companies that are planning to establish manufacturing facilities in the U.S.

Development Office participates in China investment mission

West Virginia was one of six states that participated in a mission to China organized by the State International Development Organizations (SIDO). The mission offered each state the opportunity to meet with government and business leaders in Beijing, Shanghai and Changchun to discuss the opportunity to attract Chinese investment to the United States.

PAZ exhibits at Plastech East

The Polymer Alliance Zone (PAZ) exhibited at the Plastech East exposition, co-located with Medical Design & Manufacturing East, Atlantic Design and Manufacturing Show, East Pack, and Automation Technology Expo East. The combined event took place in New York, June 3-5. The PAZ exhibit was assisted by representatives from the West Virginia Development Office. Plastech East attracts domestic and international decision makers to its showcase of the latest advances in medical grade materials, assembly and electronic components, computer aided design and manufacturing, production equipment, automation and controls, packaging materials and machinery, medical device software and validation solutions, enterprise-wide IT, sterilization systems, and a full range of contract service providers.

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